

seeks out the relevance of literature to the reality of human experience. As an Arab working in the West, he has been in a privileged position to interpret the one side to the other and to act some way as a bridge. He has been equally at home in an Oxford common room or participating in animated discussion with a group of Arab intellectuals in Cairo or Rabat. Holding strong views can and does lead to intense discussions, but his sense of humour always in the end keeps at bay the possibility of hard feelings.

The papers in this volume are offered to Mustafa Badawi with gratitude and affection by those privileged to be his colleagues and students.

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DEREK HOPWOOD

19 KHARRĀṬ, [I]dwār al-. The goalkeeper. *Journal of Arabic Literature*, 26 i-ii (1995) pp.3-4 [Mémorir of early acquaintance with M.M.Badawi.]

THE GOALKEEPER

I shall try to set the clock back to an afternoon in September, in the year 1937. The scene is the ‘Abbāssiya Secondary School, built on a low hill in Muḥarrām Bey, Alexandria: green expanses, exquisite flowerbeds, neat neo-classical buildings, corridors decorated with original paintings, elegant and spacious classrooms, and courts and halls for all kinds of sports. The newly-joined pupils who come from various quarters of Alexandria and a variety of social backgrounds, are having a rather noisy and lively game of football. I have never been a very good sportsman, to say the least, yet I am throwing myself now, a frail boy of eleven years old, with all the zeal in the world, into a game I have never been trained for.

The goalkeeper is a rather stocky figure for his age, but so dynamic and so steadfast, a bulwark in fact, almost invulnerable in defence of his goal. His name is Muhammad Mustafa Badawi. I have not forgotten the scene simply because I went home in a sweat, wounded and bleeding from the knee, dishevelled and with a torn shirt: I have never played another game of football since.

Three or four years onwards, and this dynamic goalkeeper, now a close friend, a few colleagues and myself, are now members of the Literary Society of the ‘Abbāssiya Secondary School and the backbone of *al-Manār*, its annual magazine. In 1940, a lecture was given by this same erstwhile goalkeeper, now a brilliant student fourteen years old, on the theme of Praise or Eulogy (*al-thanāʿ*), a curious and lovely piece to read now, written in *ṣajʿ*, and studded with appropriate verses in the manner of the classics:

The souls of men are inclined to Praise, as they are inclined to assuage thirst. Eulogy they tend to love...

Yet we discern in this juvenile essay, already, an inherent ethical quality that was to remain with the author constantly throughout the years, as well as a precocious capacity to look into the inner workings of what we usually call “human nature”. The following year we read by the same young author in *al-Manār* an article entitled “City Architecture in Alexandria from Muḥammad ‘Alī to Ismā‘īl”: obviously a talent of some versatility.

Today we owe this author a significant number of impressive works: *A Critical Introduction to Modern Arabic Poetry*; *An Anthology of Modern Arabic Verse*; *Coleridge: Critic of Shakespeare*; *Background to Shakespeare*; a translation